Mr. President: I do not understand how the war conditions affect Panchayat elections.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* They say there is a general depression.

Mr. President: In British India, there are various other considerations on which they have stopped the elections, not merely the economic depression consequent on the war and things like that. There are various political considerations also as a result of which they have postponed the elections. But those reasons do not affect the State. I do not think even in the matter of Panchayat elections we need blindly follow what has been done in British India.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* The Defence of India Act has been made applicable to Cochin also.

Mr. President: I do not think these issues come under Panchayat elections.

PORATHISSERI PANCHAYAT—REPRESENTATION REGARDING RURAL LIBRARY

207. Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government have got representations from the Porathisseri Panchayat for sanctioning a rural library for them;

(*b*) will Government be pleased to provide one for this Panchayat at least next year?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) This will be considered.

SRIMOOLANAGARAM PANCHAYAT COURT—OCCASIONS FOR NON-HOLDING OF

208. Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) on how many occasions during the years 1114 and 1115 the Srimoolanagaram Panchayat court was not held—

(*i*) for want of a quorum;

(*ii*) owing to the absence of the President and Senior Judge;

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(*b*) on how many days the court was held during these two years?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

		1114	*1115*
(*a*)	(*i*)	2	4
	(*ii*)	4	9
(*b*)		33	26

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal):* Sir, in the year 1115 on nine occasions the Panchayat court could not be held owing to the absence of the President. A good deal of inconvenience was caused to the public by these absences. I brought this question to find out whether there are any means by which we could obviate this inconvenience caused to the public.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Instructions have been issued to the Panchayat courts that all cases must be finished within six months. If any case was not completed within this period, they must give reasons why it was not finished within that period. I think that will be a sufficient check.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Have not the Government power to take disciplinary action against these absentee members?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes, but Government are always averse to take disciplinary action upon non-official workers. We can make this alright without taking disciplinary action, but by persistent refusal we will be forced to take disciplinary action.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* If the President who is to preside over the civil court is absent for nine occasions, it will certainly cause much inconvenience to the litigant public.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It will not be consecutively. He may attend one meeting, neglect another and attend the next, and not all the nine together.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Do these courts sit once a week?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Why should the President be made indispensable for the court's functioning?

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Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* He is not indispensable. If the President is absent, the Senior Judge will take his place. But there must be quorum.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Who supervises the judicial work of the Panchayat courts?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The records are taken to the Munsiff's courts once in two months, I think, and the Munsiffs go through the records.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Who has got the control of the judicial work of the Panchayat courts—whether the Panchayat Department itself or the Munsiff?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* So far as the legal aspect is concerned, it is under the jurisdiction of the High Court, but the ministerial control is exercised by the Department. We do not do anything without consulting the High Court.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* The question of delay is a very important matter. Who supervises at least this branch of their work?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* Consequent on the receipt of complaints with regard to the long pendency of cases in some of the Panchayat courts, the question of exercising effective control over their working is engaging the attention of Government and the High Court. The High Court is calling for returns from the Panchayat courts with regard to the duration of cases and such other matters, and hereafter the returns will have to show the cause for the delay, if any, in the disposal of cases. The attention of the District Munsiffs will also be particularly invited to this matter by the High Court, so that delay might as far as possible be curtailed.

Mr. P. K. Madhava Menon *(Narakkal):* In the case of this Panchayat court, I have found various occasions when the litigant public had to wait till two or three o'clock to know whether the court President or the Senior Judge would come to the court or not. Therefore, although the number mentioned here is nine, really the inconvenience caused to the litigant public is very considerable. In case both the court President and the Senior Judge cannot attend, can any method be found out for information being given in the Panchayat office before 11 o'clock?

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Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* As far as possible we will issue instructions. Accidents may happen occasionally, but we will see that this notice is given.

VACCINATION TRAINING—APPLICATIONS FROM ARAYANS AND VALANS

209. Mr. C. K. S. Moni *(Nominated):* Will Government be pleased to inform the House the names of applicants from—

(*a*) Arayans,

(*b*) Valans

who have applied for vaccination training?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) *Arayans.*—P. K. Hymavathi.

(*b*) *Valans.*—1. C. K. Subramanian.
2. K. P. Balakrishnan.
3. P. K. Narayanan.
4. K. M. Seemanthini.
5. M. N. Bhavani.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. എസ്. മണി : ഇതിന്റെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

ഡാക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ : ഇല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. എസ്. മണി : ആരാണ് ഈ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു നടത്തുന്നതു്? ഗവണ്മെന്റോ, ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രിയോ, പബ്ലിക്ക് ഹെൽത്ത് ഡയറക്ടരോ?

ഡാക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ : ഗവണ്മെന്റ്. തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു നടത്തുമ്പോൾ ഇവരുടെ കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി : സെലക്ഷൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണോ പറയുന്നതു്?

ഡാക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ : അതെ. The selection has not been completed. The final list has not been published.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Who made the selections—the Government or the Department?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The final decision rests with the Government.

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